

Before the Federal Communications Commission

I file comments in support of filing RM-10786.

RM-10786 removes CW Testing from the Amateur Radio requirements for licensing. It also gives Technician Class licensees access to the HF Amateur Radio bands equivalent to the Novice Class Licensee.

If the FCC were to approve this petition the FCC would remove a possible violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act in that it would no longer have a regulation on the books that restricts the ability for disabled people to use the HF Amateur Radio bands. As I understand the Americans with Disabilities Act, the FCC and other agencies must remove any regulations that may have the effect of restricting access by those with disabilities with treaty obligations being the only reason that such regulations could remain in place. Please note that you stated, and I paraphrase here, in FCC docket number 99-412 that you could not remove the requirement for CW testing for Amateur Radio licensing due to the Radio Regulations in place at that time. This restriction has been removed as of July 5, 2003 by the International Telecommunications Union and left to the various administrations to decide.

This petition and petition RM-10787 are the only petitions which spell out exactly what must be changed in the Amateur Radio regulations to carry out the objectives of the petition. I support both petitions.

Therefore, I submit that this filing and the filing RM-10787 should be combined into one NPRM and acted upon favorably and in a timely manner.

Respectfully Submitted,

William W. Stewart, Sr., W2BSA  
7825 Patriot Drive  
Annandale, VA 22003